

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing software comprising:
 - producing a host ~~software~~ file by a host software manufacturer;
 - providing the host ~~software~~ file from the host software manufacturer to a certification entity;
 - testing the operation of the host ~~software~~ file by the certification entity;
 - certifying the host ~~software~~ file for operation in a host wherein certifying the host ~~software~~ file for operation in a host comprises certifying the host ~~software~~ file is compatible with ~~for execution on~~ a host associated with a specific host manufacturer and a model associated with the specific host manufacturer;
 - establishing a first connection from a data processing system to a host file database;
 - transferring the host ~~software~~ file from the data processing system to the host file database after the host ~~software~~ file has been certified by the certification entity;
 - receiving confirmation of receipt of the host software file from the host file database;
 - identifying an enhanced services system to receive the host software file;
 - establishing a second connection from the host file database to the enhanced services system; and
 - transferring the host ~~software~~ file from the host file database to the enhanced services system.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data processing system is operated by the certification entity or the host software manufacturer.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the host ~~software file~~ includes at least one of a host protocol file, host data file, host profile file, ~~service data file~~, or host configuration message set file.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the host file includes a host data file, wherein said host data file contains software objects for execution in the host.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the host file includes a host profile file, wherein said host profile file indicates one of a plurality of resources incorporated in the host, wherein at least one of the resources processes digital video signals received by the host over a cable distribution system.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the host profile file is used to create a user-interface in a configuration message set creation system ~~that determines used to create~~ at least one host configuration message, wherein said at least one host configuration message is sent to a host.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
authenticating the data processing system to the host file database prior to transferring the host ~~software~~ file.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:
authenticating the host file data base to the enhanced services system prior to transferring the host ~~software file~~ to the host file database.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
recording an indication in the host file database of the transfer of the host ~~software~~ file to the enhanced services system.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:
recording a second indication in the host file database of the receipt of the host ~~software~~
file from the data processing system.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
maintaining an enhanced services system communication file comprising an address
associated with the enhanced services system, communication parameters for use in transferring
the host ~~software~~ file to the enhanced services system, and authentication data associated with
the enhanced services system.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of establishing a second connection
from the host file database to the enhanced services system comprises establishing a second
connection from the host file database to the enhanced services system using the communication
parameters maintained in the communication file.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of downloading a host file software, comprising:
producing the host file software by a host software manufacturer to facilitate creation of configuration messages to control a host on a cable network;
providing the host file software to a certification entity;
receiving a certification indication from the certification entity indicating the host file software is compatible with the host;
establishing a connection from a first data processing system operated either by the host software manufacturer or the certification entity to a second data processing system, the second data processing system comprising a database for storing host file software to be downloaded to a host;
authenticating the first data processing system to the second the data processing system;
transferring a copy of the host file software comprising a host protocol file and a host profile file to the second data processing system after the certification entity has certified the host file software;
receiving a confirmation indication from the second data processing system of the receipt of the host file software;
identifying one of a plurality of an enhanced services systems to receive the host file software;
establishing a connection from the second data processing system to the one of the plurality of enhanced services systems; and
transferring the host file software to the one of a plurality of enhanced services systems.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the host protocol file comprises ~~at least one~~ a plurality of host specific protocol messages ~~message~~ used by an operator of an enhanced services system server to create said configuration messages to interact with the host.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the host profile file indicates a host type

comprising a specific host manufacturer and a model associated with the specific host manufacturer.

17. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the host protocol file contains a version number associated with the host protocol file.

18. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the certification indication includes an identification associated with the host, the identification further associated with a specific host manufacturer and a model of the specific host manufacturer.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the host file database records a date and time of receipt of the host file ~~software~~, the certification indication, and the confirmation indication.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 where the host ~~software~~ file contains software objects capable of being executed in a consumer electronics host wherein the consumer electronics host processes digital multi-media signals.

21. (cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 where the step of transferring the host file ~~software~~ to the one of a plurality enhanced services systems further includes transferring a copy of the certification indication.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of downloading software, comprising:

- receiving a host ~~software~~ file at a host file database, the host ~~software~~ file for configuring a host wherein the host ~~software~~ file contains messages for interacting with the host on a cable distribution network wherein the host ~~software~~ file is associated with a specific host manufacturer and a model of the specific host manufacturer;
- maintaining a first list of at least one enhanced services system, comprising the enhanced services system further associated with a destination address and the host software file;
- maintaining a second list of the destination address associated with a set of communication parameters, the set of communication parameters including authentication information;
- establishing a communications path between the host file database and the enhanced services system, the communications path using the destination address;
- authenticating the host file database to the enhanced services system using in part the set of communications parameters;
- transmitting the host ~~software~~ file from the host file database to the enhanced services system on the communications path;
- receiving a confirmation of the receipt of the host ~~software~~ file from the enhanced services system; and
- recording an indication of the confirmation of the receipt of the host ~~software~~ file, the indication recorded in the host file database.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 further comprising the steps of:

- storing the host ~~software~~ file in a second database located at the enhanced services system;
- transmitting a copy of the host file ~~software~~ stored in the second database to a host;
- receiving a confirmation of receipt of the host file ~~software~~ from the host; and
- recording an indication in the second database regarding the host file ~~software~~ downloaded to the host.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising the steps of :
transmitting the host file ~~software~~ file from the enhanced services system to the host; and
executing the host file ~~software~~ in the host.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising the steps of:
transmitting an indication of certification of the host file ~~software~~ file; and
verifying in the enhanced services system that the indication of certification has been
received prior to transmitting a copy of the host file ~~software~~ to the host.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the transmitting of the host file
~~software~~ file from the host file database uses the Internet.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the host file ~~software~~ file
comprises at least one two from the group of host protocol file, host profile file, host data file,
and host configuration message set file.

29. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of establishing a
communications path between the host file database and the enhanced services system is
determined in part based on a time indicated in the communication parameters.

30 - 33. (cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method of downloading host software comprising:

- receiving a host file software file associated with a specific host manufacturer and a model associated with the specific host manufacturer;
- determining an enhanced services system to receive the host software file by retrieving a file associating an enhanced services system with a plurality of host types, each host type comprising a specific host manufacturer identifier and a model identifier associated with the specific host manufacturer and determining if the host ~~software~~ file received matches one of the plurality of host types associated with the enhanced services system;
- establishing a connection from the enhanced services system to a host file database;
- authenticating the enhanced services system to the host file database;
- transferring the host file software from the host file database to the enhanced services system;
- recording an indication of the date and time associated with the transferring of the host file software to the enhanced services system;
- storing the host software file in a second database located at the enhanced services system;
- transmitting at least a portion of the host file software file stored in the second database to a host;
- receiving a confirmation of receipt of the host file software from the host; and
- recording an indication in the second database regarding the host file software download to the host.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the host s file software file is tested for operation on a specific host manufacturer and host manufacturer's model.

36- 58 (cancelled)

59. (Previously Presented) A method of downloading host software comprising:
receiving a host file associated with a host type associated with a specific host manufacturer and a model associated with the specific host manufacturer, wherein the host file comprises a host protocol file comprising protocol message format information for communicating with the host type and a host profile file indicating capabilities of the host type;
determining an enhanced services system to receive the host software file;
establishing a connection from the enhanced services system to a host file database;
authenticating the enhanced services system to the host file database;
transferring host file from the host file database to the enhanced services system; and
recording an indication of the date and time associated with the transferring of the host file to the enhanced services system.

60. (Previously Presented) A method for downloading software, comprising:
communicating a software module associated with a brand and model of a consumer electronics host device to a host file database;
communicating a certification indication associated with the software module to the host file database, the host file database recording the certification indication in association with the software module;
communicating the software module from the host file database to an enhanced services system, the enhanced services system comprising a server and a database for storing the software module, the server operatively connected to a cable distribution network;
detecting activation of a host, the host associated with the host manufacturer and further associated with a model of the host manufacturer, the host connected to the cable distribution network; and
transmitting the software module from the server to the host.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 60 wherein detecting activation of a the host is initiated by the receipt of a message from a the host transmitted in a two-way cable network.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61 further comprising the step of:
recording in an enhanced services server an indication signifying the transmittal of the software module from the server to the host.
63. (Previously Presented) A method of loading software comprising:
loading a host protocol file associated with a type of host;
loading a host profile file associated with the type of host;
processing the host profile file to provide a user-interface for selecting at least one service related parameter associated with a service provided to a host on a cable network;
receiving a user input to determine the at least one service related parameter;
using the host protocol file and the at least one service related parameter to generate a host configuration message wherein the format of the host configuration message is specific to said host type; and
associating the host configuration message with the type of host.
64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63 wherein the type of host is associated with a host manufacturer and a model of the host manufacturer.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65 wherein the host protocol file comprises a plurality of protocol messages capable of recognition by the type of host.
66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 wherein the configuration message is an executable command on a processor in a host.

67. (Currently Amended) A system for downloading a host software file to a database, comprising:

a data processing system transmitting a host ~~software~~ file, the data processing system comprising a database capable of receiving and storing the host ~~software~~ file and maintaining an association of the host software file with a host manufacturer, the database further maintaining an association of the host ~~software~~ file with a specific host model of the host manufacturer, the database storing a certification file associated with the host ~~software~~ file, the database associating the host ~~software~~ file with an enhanced services system; and

a communications network, operatively connected to the data processing system, receiving the host ~~software~~ file from the data processing system and transferring the host ~~software~~ file to the enhanced services system.

68. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 67 further comprising:

a cable distribution network operatively connected to the enhanced services system at a headend of the cable distribution network capable of receiving the host ~~software~~ file from the enhanced services system.

69. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

an enhanced services system operatively connected to a communications network, receiving and storing at least one host ~~software~~ data file associated with a host type in a database, wherein the database stores at least one host address associated with the host ~~software~~ data file; and

a cable distribution network having a headend, operatively connected to the enhanced services system at the headend for receiving the host data file from the enhanced services system and transmitting the host ~~software~~ data file to a host associated with the host address wherein the host is associated with said host type and said enhanced services system stores an association between said host type and said host address.

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70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 69 wherein the host type comprises a host manufacturer identifier and a model identifier of the host manufacturer.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 69 wherein the cable distribution network supports two-way communication.

72. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 69 wherein the database further stores an indication of the host ~~software~~ file transmitted to the host.